BOOM! STUDIOS 20!

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 45

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

HI.

HI?

I'M JESSIE.

OKAY.

ARE YOU OKAY?

THEY'RE *DEAD*, AREN'T THEY?

YEAH.

BUT YOU'RE NOT!

WHAT GOT THEM--?

THEY WERE *WOLVES.*

THEY *WEREN'T* WOLVES.

YOU SHOULD *SAY* THEY WERE WOLVES. IF ANYONE ASKS, THEY WERE WOLVES. *FORGET* THAT THEY WEREN'T WOLVES.

NEVER THINK IN YOUR LIFE AGAIN THAT THEY WEREN'T WOLVES.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MANDY.

JESSICA. WHERE ARE YOU, GIRL?!

HEY! SHE'S OKAY! SHE'S ALIVE!

DID YOU GET THE *WOLVES?*

...

I GOT TWO OF THEM. THERE ARE A FEW MORE, I THINK. BUT THEY'RE HURT.

WE *HUNT* WOLVES.

THE FUCKING THING GOT MY *LEG.*

CECE! MANDY SURVIVED THE *WOLF ATTACK.*

WHAT FUCKING WOLVES?

MANDY, WE SHOULD GET YOU DOWN TO THE HOUSE.

CECILIA, HELP JESSICA.

YES, MA'AM.

WERE THEY YOUR FRIENDS? YOUR SISTERS?

MY FRIENDS.

DID YOU SEE WHAT GOT THEM?

WOLVES. I SAW WOLVES.

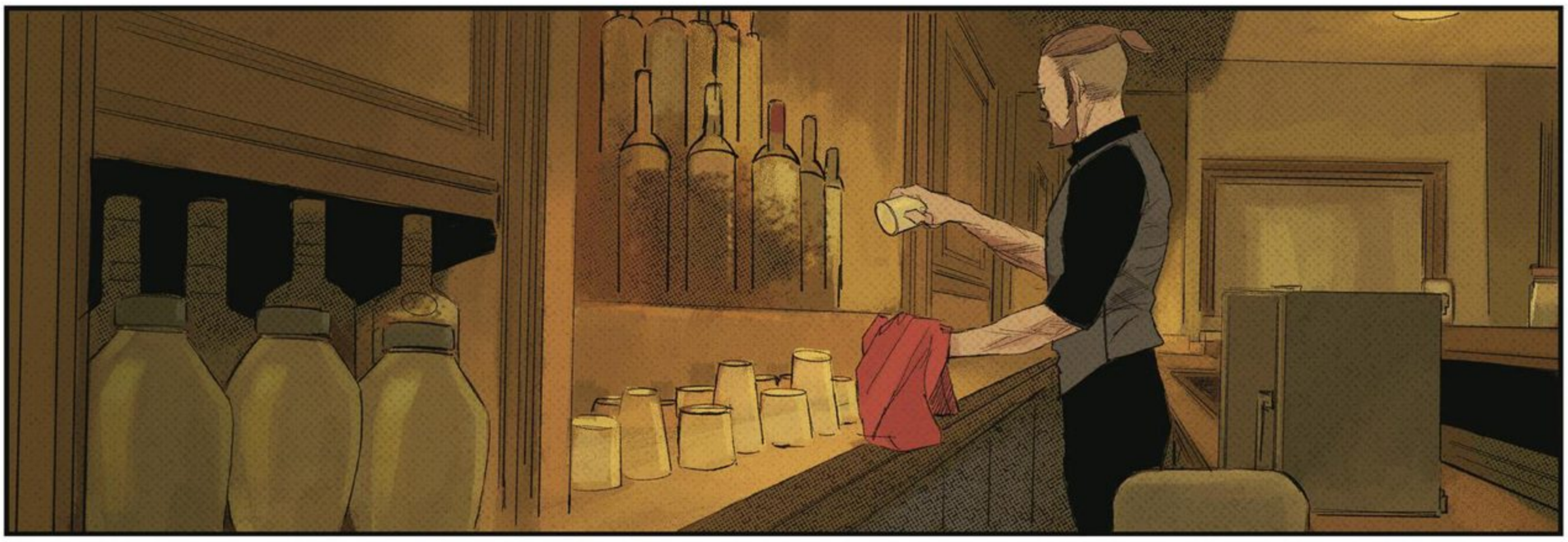
SOMETHING IS KILLING THE CHILDREN

THING

THING

the

CHILDREN



HEY, COWBOY.

OH, WE'RE DOING *THIS* AGAIN.
WE ARE IN FACT DOING *THIS* AGAIN.

OKAY.

I HAVE A LITTLE PROPOSITION FOR YOU. A *TRANSACTION,* IF YOU WILL.

IS THIS ONE OF THOSE *PRETTY WOMAN* TYPES OF SITUATIONS?

AS FUN AS THAT MIGHT BE, IT IS NOT.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING. I WANTED TO GET A WHOLE ***MAKEOVER*** IN A FANCY SHOP.

YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF FINE-LOOKING ***BOTTLES OF WHISKEY*** RIGHT BEHIND YOU. I WANT YOU TO PICK WHICHEVER ONE YOU'D MISS THE LEAST IF I HANDED YOU THIS ***HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL.***

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO GO BY THE GLASS HERE.

YES, BECAUSE YOU CHARGE A ***MILLION DOLLARS*** A GLASS.

I DON'T SET POLICY, I JUST ABIDE BY IT.

THAT'S WHERE OUR ***FUN LITTLE DEAL*** COMES IN.

I PUT THIS HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL HERE ON THE BAR. YOU PUT A BOTTLE RIGHT NEXT TO IT, AND ***WHATEVER HAPPENS*** TO THAT HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL IS ***YOUR*** BUSINESS.

IF YOU GET IN TROUBLE, YOU CAN SAY THAT IT WAS ***REQUISITIONED*** BY THE FBI.

WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET IN TROUBLE WITH THE ***FBI.***

NO, YOU WOULDN'T.

THUMP

YOU'RE NOT DRESSED WARMLY ENOUGH.

ERICA. I THOUGHT YOU WERE WATCHING THE KID.

SHE'S DRAWING IN HER ROOM. SHE HAS SNACKS. SHE'S FINE. AND YOU ARE ***NOT DRESSED WARMLY ENOUGH*** TO GO OUT THERE.

I'M GETTING A LITTLE ***SICK OF THIS,*** ERICA.

YEAH. ME TOO.

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS PLACE? WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?

OH, ARE WE PLAYING "WHAT AREN'T WE TELLING EACH OTHER"?

WHICH WAS *YOUR* FIRST?

WAS IT IN TOPEKA? THE CASE WITH *THE TWINS?*

OR GEORGIA? THAT *NERDY KID* WITH THE GLASSES WHO KEPT GETTING THE *NOSEBLEEDS?*

ONCE A *BLACK MASK* MAKES A KILL ON THEIR OWN, THEY GET THEIR *TEETH* AND THEIR APPRENTICESHIP *ENDS.*

OR WAS IT *EVEN BEFORE THAT?*

I LOVE YOU, KID. AND I KNOW YOU'RE NOT READY TO LET ME GO, SO I'VE LET YOU *STICK AROUND.*

BUT WHEN I'M BACK, I'M TELLING THE *OLD DRAGON* YOU'RE READY TO GO OUT ON YOUR OWN.

BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO *YOU?*

YOU THINK THIS IS HELPING ME. BUT THIS IS *NOT* HELPING ME.

YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHICH OF THOSE MONSTERS *YOU KILLED* AND WHICH ONES *YOU DIDN'T.*

PLEASE.

I HAVE TO HANDLE THIS ONE MYSELF. AND I AM ***MORE THAN CAPABLE*** OF HANDLING IT BY MYSELF.

KEEP THE KID SAFE IN CASE WE NEED TO USE HER TO DRAW THEM OUT.

TAKE THIS, OKAY? JUST WEAR SOME FUCKING LAYERS.

THE WHISKEY WILL MAKE YOU ***FEEL*** WARM, BUT IT WON'T ***KEEP YOU*** WARM.

THERE. I'M TAKING THE SWEATER. ARE YOU HAPPY?

YEAH.

STAY WITH THE GIRL. AND STAY OUT OF MY WAY.

OKAY!

I NEED YOUR HELP.
HUH?
staff
THE GUY WITH THE *MUSTACHE* AND THE *CANE*. HE'S THE BOSS HERE, RIGHT?
WHEELER.
YEAH. HIM.
HE'S THE BOSS. WHY?
DOES HE HAVE AN *OFFICE* OR SOMETHING?
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE THERE.
THAT'S FINE. I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE IT IS.
I CAN *SHOW* YOU.
WHAT, AND LEAVE ME HERE?
I THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MANAGE OUR *HUNDREDS OF CUSTOMERS* WITHOUT ME. IT'S, LIKE, ONE FLOOR AWAY.
FINE. WHATEVER.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *HELP* OUR CUSTOMERS.
I SAID *WHATEVER*.
staff

HE'S TERRIBLE.

HM?

BARNEY. HE'S TERRIBLE.

YEAH?

I MEAN, HE'S SWEET, TOO. LIKE, HE'S A NICE GUY.

NICE AND TERRIBLE.

YEAH.

OKAY.

HE'S RIGHT, THOUGH. WHEELER IS, LIKE, NEVER IN HERE.

WHEE

THAT'S FINE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M PICKING THE LOCK.

YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME FIRED!

YOU CAN GO.

I MEAN, I WANT TO SEE YOU PICK THE LOCK. I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE DO IT BEFORE IN REAL LIFE.

ARE YOU, LIKE, A *THIEF?* LIKE A *ROBBER* OR SOMETHING?

NO.

THERE'S A *GARDENING SHED* RIGHT OFF THE FRONT ENTRANCE. ALL LOCKED UP. I NEED TO GET IN. I BET THE KEY'S IN HERE.

SEE?

OH.

WHAT DO YOU NEED IN THE *GARDENING SHED?*

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE SHOP, MAX.

YEAH. THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"ALL HER MONSTERS"
PART FIVE

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SIKTC™

A MONSTER HUNTER WALKS INTO A BAR

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